

# Shrewsbury Public Library

## News and Events

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

Friday May 20 10 am - 4 pm  
Saturday May 21 9 am - 4 pm  
Sunday May 22 1 pm - 4pm  
All items on Sunday will be \$2 a bag.

Donations are now being accepted. Books, CDs, videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs are welcome donations. No text books, Reader's Digest condensed books, newspapers, magazines, or encyclopedias can be accepted.

**Health Information Series** presented by specialists from University of Massachusetts Medical School:

#### **Arthritis 101: Just the Basics**

May 2 6-7 pm

#### **Sleep: What is Normal for Your Child**

May 3 6-7 pm

#### **Your College Essay**

with career counselor Joan Bress

June 6 7:30 pm

Pre-registration is requested, please call 508-842-0081 x3. This program is always very popular, call early!

#### **Holiday Library Closing**

May 30 Memorial Day

#### **Eclectic Browsers Book Group**

May 19 10:30 am

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Bring lunch and stay for the movie!

#### **Pageturners Mystery Book Group**

May 5 10:30 am

Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley

### Science Fiction Book Group

May 4 7 pm

I, Robot by Isaac Asimov

June 1 7 pm

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

### French Conversation Circle

We're moving from Tuesday afternoons to Monday afternoons. The time will remain the same: 4-5:30 pm.

### Genealogy Club

May 12 7:30 pm

June 9 7:30 pm

Please join us whether you're just getting started or need some encouragement.

### Computer Classes

*Basic Computer Skills*

May 3, 10, 17 2:30 pm

*Introduction to the Internet*

May 12, 19, 26 11 am

June 7, 14, 21 2:30 pm

*Word Processing*

April 28, May 5, 12 2:30 pm

June 2, 9, 16 11 am

All classes consist of 3 one-hour sessions, registration is required because space is limited. Call 508-842-0081 x3 or stop by the Front Desk to sign-up.

### Coming this summer...

Gnomes Across Massachusetts and more! The Shrewsbury Library will be hosting roaming gnomes this summer. Check one out to join you on vacation and help record his journey with pictures and journals. Stop by the Library in May and help name our gnome!

## *Letter from the Director*

April 11, 2005

To the people of Shrewsbury,

In my first "Director's letter" I would like to introduce myself to the community and share my first impressions, the clearest of which is that there is much good at the library and in Shrewsbury at large. From the start, I've found residents to be incredibly welcoming and supportive, town officials to be experienced and generous with assistance, the Trustee Board to be dedicated and committed to the library, and it's clear that the library was well managed by former Library Director Bonnie O'Brien. Best of all, I find myself working with a strong and capable staff.

If I had any doubts while settling in, they were quickly set aside by an event I witnessed my first week on the job. A young boy was registering for his first library card, when a staff member took out an instamatic camera to record the important moment. The smile on the child's face stretched from ear to ear, and he proudly displayed his brand new card. It was a great moment to witness; proof that I had joined a library where the customer is important. It was a good sign, one that will surely help me as I face the challenges of my new position.

I'm sure most people are familiar with town's difficult revenue situation. While budget cuts are not the first thing I wanted to tackle, I realize that this is part of managing any municipal service these days. I know that we need to remain focused on the best way to serve people and maintain the quality of library service. Although the budget is in great flux at this time, and we may not have firm numbers until shortly before the new fiscal year starts on July 1, I am sure the Shrewsbury Public Library will continue to play an important part in the life of the community.

Another challenge of my new job is the proposed renovation and expansion project for the library building. While I look forward to the incredible promise and opportunity the project offers, there's much to be done to prepare for and move the effort forward. And there's also the seemingly obvious conflict between budget reductions and a planned expansion. On the surface, it does seem almost nonsensical to seek approval of a proposed building project grant when we are also considering budget

reductions. My past experience in public libraries, however, provides me with a good base to understand that considering these two issues concurrently *does* make sense. The budget reductions must take place, as the vast majority of public library funding is derived from the local tax dollar. All municipal departments must be responsive to this changing situation.

But at the same time, the Board of Library Trustees has the clear duty to assess needs and opportunities related to the library. They must plan for the future and position the library to take advantage of opportunities. While it will be difficult to ask the community for permission to apply for a state library construction grant at this time, it's just what they should be doing. The Board has been planning since 1998 to address the building's space, accessibility and facility problems and respond to the incredible growth in library usage. They have conducted numerous site and space studies, hired architects to develop a program statement and schematic drawings, and submitted a grant to the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Grant program. They realize that submitting such a grant, even in a time like this, offers the best hope for the future resolution of building problems. It would be easier to ignore building needs, but it would be irresponsible to do so. It is the Board's singular responsibility to plan for the future.

A less obvious challenge has been personally worrisome. In my first month I've had to engage in a sort of crash course in budget and building history so that I might effectively represent the library on both matters. I've had to spend a great deal of time in my office reading files, writing letters, learning budget history, etc... Ideally, I would have been at the main desk, meeting patrons, learning more about the staff, seeing how people use the library, generally getting to know the community and its people. I've sincerely missed that aspect as I focused on budget and building. Now that I've made it through my first two months and have a better understanding of these issues, I hope to get to know you all better. My short time on the job has shown me I'm quite fortunate to be here and I look forward to serving you in the years to come.

Sincerely  
Ellen M. Dolan  
Library Director

# from the children's room

## **Mother's Day Tea**

May 3 4 pm

For children in grades K-5

Surprise your mom! Ask the Children's librarians for more information.

Registration begins April 19.

## **Book Chats**

May 18 4 pm

The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

June 15 4 pm

The Teacher's Funeral by Richard Peck

## **Baby Sign Workshop**

May 25 7 pm

The Baby Signs® Program helps give babies and parents a way to communicate with each other. Want to learn more? Join us for an informational demonstration. No registration necessary.

## **Tim Van Egmond**

June 29 2 pm

Recommended for ages 4 and up.

You can really be "Going Places" with a celebration of stories and songs by Tim Van Egmond. Space is limited. Tickets are free but necessary and will be available beginning June 15.

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## **Summer Reading Going Places @ Your Library**

Come to the Library  
to get your own  
**Calendar of Events** with  
details of all events.

### **reading programs**

Our two summer reading programs, Read-to-Me and Readers, are independent programs that are structured to do while at home or on vacation.

Registration: June 20 – July 22 (Register early and start receiving your weekly surprises).

Check-in times posted in the Library. Awards picnic for participants will be held August 3 at noon.

### **more great summer programs**

#### **storytimes**

**Evening in the Courtyard**

July 11 – August 1

Mondays @ 6:30 pm

#### **Crafts**

July 6 – July 27

Wednesdays @ 2:30 pm

Space is limited, registration  
will be required

#### **Magic of Chemistry**

**Harry Potter**

July 12

6 – 8 pm

#### **Traveling Storytimes**

July 5 – August 9

Tuesdays @ 10:30 am

#### **Movies**

July 8 – July 29

Fridays @ 2 pm

Popcorn included

#### **Harry Potter**

**Movie Marathon**

July 15

Beginning at 10 am

# Young Adult News

## **TAGS Meeting**

May 27 4 pm

Join TAGS to suggest materials you want to see on the shelves, plan programs you want to attend, and support your Library. Currently, we're planning programs, organizing fundraisers, and other fun stuff. To join, fill out an application at the Front Desk of the Library and come to our next meeting! Bring a drink, we'll provide snacks! Join and enhance your college applications!

## **Book Groups**

Skeleton Key by Anthony Horowitz

May 18 3:30 pm

Recommended for students in grades 5 & up

Geography Club by Brent Hartinger

May 25 3:30 pm

Recommended for students in grades 9 & up

Copies of the books are available at the Front Desk

## **Tune In @ Your Library**

2005 Young Adult Summer Reading Program for students in grades 5-12

Sign-up begins June 23

This is your opportunity to win some great prizes this summer. Watch for more details coming soon!

## **Henna Art**

June 1 3:30 pm

Come learn about Henna, a dye made from the leaves of a henna plant and commonly used to create temporary tattoos. Sign up and parent/guardian's signature is required for all participants. Please notify us of any food or skin allergies upon sign up. Henna tattoos usually last about 2 weeks.

## **Spray Bottle Tie Dye**

June 17 3:30 pm

Join us on the Library's front lawn (weather permitting). Bring a T-shirt to tie dye and we'll provide the spray! No registration necessary.